

BALANCE

- Make sure that your ministry allows time for personal prayer.
- Spend time developing your own spirituality.
- Participate regularly in the Sacraments.
- Eat right and exercise regularly.
- Find time for adult companionships enabling you to deal with your own needs.
- Prioritize - you are first a child of God, second you are your vocation as a priest, married life or single life. Third, your role in your ministry.
- Get a spiritual director or trusted friends (other adults) who both challenge and nourish you to reflect on your own emotional and spiritual well being.

HOW TO USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGEMENT IN WORKING WITH TEENS

- Maintain a ministerial relationship. You are not one of the teens. Maintain healthy boundaries. It is better to be respected than liked.
- Do not isolate yourself with a teen for a private discussion. If a teen is in need of one-on-one time stay in the large group area, always in sight. When having a discussion with a teen it is recommended to be two on one (2 core for the one teen - when possible).
- When teens are in need of serious help, remember we are not licensed professionals. Refer all teens in crises to the youth minister or priest, so the youth minister or priest, in turn, can refer them to appropriate counseling.
- Do not flirt with teens.
- Core members may not enter into a dating relationship with a teen.
- Never talk to teens about another teens' problems.
- Sarcasm and negative humor will negatively effect your ability to minister. Be ever mindful of who you are and what you represent.
- At LIFE TEEN functions, dress appropriately.
- Keep in mind the perceptions of the teens, public displays of affection should never be done so as to make others uncomfortable.
- If you have any questions or concerns about what is appropriate or not, then you should immediately contact

RULES & REGULATIONS

RULES REGARDING:

DRINKING ALCOHOL & ILLEGAL DRUGS:

There is to be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or influence of illegal drugs at or on any LIFE TEEN event. No one should be at any LIFE TEEN event under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you suspect someone has alcohol or drugs or has been drinking alcohol or under the influence drugs you should notify your youth minister.

Language:

Use of offensive language at any LIFE TEEN event is unacceptable behavior and core members should address the situation according to the above guidelines.

Respect:

Respect is required of the teens for other teens, core members and personal and church property. Core members should address the situation according to the above guidelines.

Attendance:

Teens should not leave any LIFE TEEN event and return without getting prior approval from a core member, and in most situations, approval from their parents.

PITFALLS AND THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR IN A RELATIONAL MINISTRY

- A. Know and follow your diocesan sexual misconduct policy. (Every diocese in the country have sexual misconduct policies in place. Make sure you go through training and are familiar with the policy. It will help you minister more effectively in the long run.)
- B. Be aware of how situations can be misinterpreted. (If you spend time with a teen of the opposite sex, they could misinterpret it as an attraction. Be beyond reproach in your ministry.)
- C. Reach out to the difficult teens. (Don't just reach out to those who are easy to minister to See Christ in everybody.)
- D. Balance yourself in ministry. (Don't let your other relationships and commitments deteriorate. Go somewhere else to be ministered to.)
- E. Always lead teens to Jesus. (Don't lead them to yourself. Every situation is not about you.)

